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SUBJECT: KARZAI SIGNS ELECTION NON-INTERFERENCE DECREE

REF: KABUL 1022

¶1. President Karzai has signed and published a decree prohibiting official interference in the election process. The decree has the key elements the USG and international community has urged Karzai to include. We will now turn our attention to the government's implementation of the decree provisions. The decree is based on the decree on government non-interference for the 2005 elections

¶2. Full text follows:

President Karzai's decree on Non-Interference in Election Process of 1388 (2009)

Considering that as per the provision of the Constitution and the elections law, eligible nationals, including the women and men retain the right to participate through their free, secret and direct votes in the elections. In order to maintain the safety and realization of the objectives and facilitating the free, just and transparent elections free from interference of the officials of government departments during the presidential elections and the provincial councils during the 1388 HS the following is approved:

Article 1:

The officials of the government including the ministers, general directors, deputy ministers, judges, the attorneys and the chairmen of the government department, the governors and their deputies and all the employees of the Ministry of Defense, the Interior Affairs Ministry and the General directorate of National Security are obliged to follow up the following points:

¶1. Should strictly observe non-interference during the elections expecting in instance that law has anticipated them,

¶2. Prevent influencing the voters with the aim to reveal their votes and compelling them to vote to the specific candidates that would disrupt the freedom of vote, its secrecy and its direct voting essence,

¶3. Non-interference in meetings, preparing of meetings, gatherings and the peaceful campaign process of candidates during the election process,

¶4. Preventing of abuse of government power to the interest of one candidate

¶5. Preventing the collection with changing of complexion, posters and other publicity materials of the candidates,

¶6. Maintaining of the security of the voters and candidates,

¶7. Prevention of dismissal and assignment of persons at the government posts for election objectives,

Article 2:

In case of violation of the above provisions, the violators shall be punished in accordance with the provision of law,

Article 3:

All the UN branches and the foundations under its coverage and the international community are asked to act impartially during and after the elections.

Article 4:

This decree is enforced after its signature and all the related government organs are obliged for its strict execution.

EIKENBERRY